

60,130-1945

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9-14 are amended above. Claim 5 is cancelled. New claim 18 is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The amendments to those claims clarify them and they satisfy §112.

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Given that, revised claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Applicant also respectfully submits that new independent claim 18 is allowable. A sealing member extending across and received directly against a seam between the bent edges of the first and second sheet pieces is not taught by the art. *Hagiwara*, for example, discloses a connecting jig with first and second spaced jaws that leaves spacing between the seam and the jig.

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that a telephone conference will facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative is happy to discuss any issues regarding this

60,130-1945

application. Applicant's representative can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

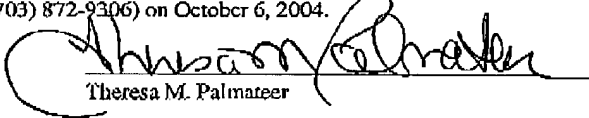
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Serial No. 10/697,709) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on October 6, 2004.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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